

The amendment to the list of inventors has been made in this Response as suggested by the Examiner.

The specification has also been amended on page 34 to correct an obvious error in the description.

Entry of the amendments to the specification is requested.

Amendments to, and Cancellation of, Claims

Claims 1-67 are pending.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-12, 14-19, 21-31, 41-46, 48-50, 54-57, 59-64, 66 and 67 in view of Judson. The Examiner also rejected Claims 19, 21, 22, 46 and 48 in view of Pirani et al.

Claims 1-12, 14-19, 21-31, 41-46, 48-50, 55-57, 59-64, 66 and 67 have been canceled, thereby obviating the rejection of those claims.

The Examiner objected to Claims 13, 20, 32-40, 47, 51-53, 58 and 65 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that those claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 13, 20, 32, 33, 40, 47, 51-53, 58 and 65 have been amended so that Claims 13, 20, 32-40, 47, 51-53, 58 and 65 are now in the form suggested by the Examiner.

The Examiner also identified a possible problem with the recitation of "the idle period" in Claim 32, stating that "Applicant should review this to determine if applicant is referring to an inherent idle period or to an idle period defined in another claim." Applicants have reviewed Claim 32 and determined that Claim 32 incorrectly depends upon Claim 19.

Claim 32 has been amended to depend upon Claim 20, which recites "an idle period of predetermined duration," thereby rectifying the problem identified by the Examiner.

Claim 40 has been amended to correct an incorrect claim dependency noticed by Applicant.

Additionally, Claim 54, which was rejected by the Examiner, depends upon Claim 53 and so is allowable as dependent on an allowable claim.

Claims 1-67 were pending. Claims 1-12, 14-19, 21-31, 41-46, 48-50, 54-57, 59-64, 66 and 67 were rejected. Claims 13, 20, 32-40, 47, 51-53, 58 and 65 were objected to as dependent on a rejected claim. Claims 1-12, 14-19, 21-31, 41-46, 48-50, 55-57, 59-64, 66 and 67 have been canceled. Claims 13, 20, 32, 33, 40, 47, 51-53, 58 and 65 have been amended. In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of Claims 13, 20, 32-40, 47, 51-54, 58 and 65 is requested. If the Examiner wishes to discuss any aspect of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' undersigned attorney at (408) 945-9912.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on August 9, 1999.

8-9-99 David R. Graham
Date Signature

Respectfully submitted,

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